D.P.U. 16-64 Appendix A

220 CMR: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

220 CMR 18.00: NET METERING

#### Section

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## 18.01: Purpose and Scope

- (1) <u>Purpose</u>. 220 CMR 18.00 establishes regulations governing how Distribution Companies are to provide Net Metering services to Customers consistent with the net metering provisions of M.G.L. c. 164, §§ 138 through 140, as amended by an *Act Relative to Credit for Thermal Energy Generated with Renewable Fuels*, St. 2014, c. 251, §§ 5 and 6.
- (2) <u>Scope</u>. 220 CMR 18.00 applies to all Distribution Companies subject to the jurisdiction of the Department.

#### 18.02: Definitions

The terms set forth in 220 CMR 18.02 shall be defined as follows, unless the context otherwise requires.

Agricultural Net Metering Facility means a Renewable Energy generating facility that is operated as part of an agricultural business, generates electricity, does not have a generation capacity of more than two megawatts, is located on land owned or controlled by the agricultural business, and is used to provide energy to metered accounts of the business. "Agriculture" has the same meaning as provided in M.G.L. c. 128, § 1A; provided that, when necessary, the Commissioner of the Department of Agricultural Resources shall determine if a business is an agricultural business and whether the facility is operated as part of that business.

## Anaerobic Digestion Net Metering Facility means a facility that

- (a) generates electricity from a biogas produced by the accelerated biodegradation of organic materials under controlled anaerobic conditions;
- (b) has been determined by the Department of Energy Resources, in coordination with the Department of Environmental Protection, to qualify under the Department of Energy Resources' regulations as a Class I renewable energy generating source under 225 CMR 14:00: *Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Class I* and M.G.L. c. 25A, § 11F; and
- (c) is interconnected to a Distribution Company.

<u>Billing Period</u> means the period of time set forth in a Distribution Company's terms and conditions for which a Distribution Company bills a Customer for its electricity consumed or estimated to have been consumed.

<u>Class I Net Metering Facility</u> means a plant or equipment that is used to produce, manufacture, or otherwise generate electricity and that is not a transmission facility and that has a design capacity of 60 kilowatts or less.

Class I Solar Net Metering Facility means a facility for the production of electrical energy that uses sunlight to generate electricity and that is not a transmission facility and with a design capacity of 60 kilowatts or less and is interconnected to a Distribution Company.

Class II Net Metering Facility means an Agricultural Net Metering Facility, Anaerobic Digestion Net Metering Facility, Solar Net Metering Facility, or Wind Net Metering Facility with a generating capacity of more than 60 kilowatts but less than or equal to one megawatt; provided, however, that a Class II Net Metering Facility of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity may have a generating capacity of more than 60 kilowatts but less than or equal to one megawatt per unit.

Class II Solar Net Metering Facility means a facility for the production of electrical energy that uses sunlight to generate electricity with a generating capacity of more than 60 kilowatts but less than or equal to one megawatt and is interconnected to a Distribution Company; provided however, that a Solar Class II Net Metering Facility of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity may have a generating capacity of more than 60 kilowatts but less than or equal to one megawatt per unit.

Class III Net Metering Facility means an Agricultural Net Metering Facility, Anaerobic Digestion Net Metering Facility, Solar Net Metering Facility, or Wind Net Metering Facility with a generating capacity of more than one megawatt but less than or equal to two megawatts; provided, however, that a Class III Net Metering Facility of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity may have a generating capacity of more than one megawatt but less than or equal to two megawatts per unit up to a total capacity of ten megawatts per Municipality or Other Governmental Entity.

Class III Solar Net Metering Facility means a facility for the production of electrical energy that uses sunlight to generate electricity with a generating capacity of more than one megawatt but less than or equal to two megawatts and is interconnected to a Distribution Company; provided however, that a Solar Class III Net Metering Facility of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity may have a generating capacity of more than one megawatt but less than or equal to two megawatts per unit and up to a total capacity of ten megawatts per Municipality or Other Governmental Entity.

# Department means Department of Public Utilities.

Governmental Cooperative means a cooperative, organized pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164, § 136, whose members or shareholders are all Municipalities or Other Governmental Entities.

<u>Customer</u> means any person, partnership, corporation, or any other entity, whether public or private, who obtains distribution service at a customer delivery point and who is a customer of record of the Distribution Company for its own electricity consumption.

<u>Distribution Company</u> means a company engaging in the distribution of electricity or owning, operating or controlling distribution facilities; provided, however, that a distribution company shall not include any entity which owns or operates plant or equipment used to produce electricity, <u>except for facilities provided in M.G.L. c. 164, § 1A(f)</u>, steam and chilled water, or an affiliate engaged solely in the provision of such electricity, steam and chilled water, where the electricity produced by such entity or its affiliate is primarily for the benefit of hospitals and non-profit educational institutions, and where such plant or equipment was in operation before January 1, 1986.

<u>Host Customer</u> means a Customer with a Class I, II, or III Net Metering Facility that generates electricity on the Customer's side of the meter.

<u>ISO-NE</u> means ISO New England Inc., the independent system operator for New England, or its successor, authorized by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to operate the New England bulk power system and administer New England's organized wholesale electricity market pursuant to the ISO-NE Tariff and operation agreements with transmission owners.

Market Net Metering Credit means a Net Metering Credit provided by a Distribution Company for the excess electricity generated and fed back to the Distribution Company by a Class I Solar Net Metering Facility, Class II Solar Net Metering Facility, Class III Solar Net Metering Facility or Solar Neighborhood Net Metering Facility that is interconnected to a Distribution Company after the Notification Date.

Municipality means a city or town.

<u>Neighborhood</u> means a geographic area within a Municipality, subject to the right of the Department to grant exceptions pursuant to 220 CMR 18.09(7), that:

- (a) is recognized by the residents as including a unique community of interests;
- (b) falls within the service territory of a single Distribution Company and within a single ISO-NE load zone; and
- (c) may encompass residential, commercial, and undeveloped properties.

Neighborhood Net Metering Facility means a Class I, II, or III Net Metering Facility that:

- (a) is owned by, or serves the energy needs of, a group of ten or more residential Customers that reside in a single Neighborhood and are served by a single Distribution Company;
- (b) may also be owned by, or serve the energy needs of, other Customers who reside in the same Neighborhood and are served by the same Distribution Company as the residential Customers that own or are served by the facility; and
- (c) is located within the same Neighborhood as the Customers that own or are served by the facility.

<u>Net Metering</u> means the process of measuring the difference between electricity delivered by a Distribution Company and electricity generated by a Class I, Class II, Class III Net Metering Facility and fed back to the Distribution Company.

Net Metering Credit means any credit, including a Market Net Metering Credit, provided by a Distribution Company for the excess electricity generated and fed back to the Distribution Company by a Class I, Class II, Class III or Neighborhood Net Metering Facility.

Net Metering Facility of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity means a Class II or III Net Metering Facility:

- (a) that is owned or operated by a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity; or
- (b) of which the Municipality or Other Governmental Entity is the Host Customer and is assigned 100% of the output.

Notification Date means the date established by Department Order after which all new Class I Solar Net Metering Facilities, Class II Solar Net Metering Facilities, and Class III Solar Net Metering Facilities shall generate Market Net Metering Credits only as determined pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164, § 139 (b½).

Other Governmental Entity means a department or agency of the Federal government or of the Commonwealth, and any other entity as approved by the Department.

Renewable Energy means energy generated from any source that qualifies as a Class I or Class II Renewable Energy generating source under M.G.L. c. 25A, § 11F; provided, however, that after conducting administrative proceedings, the Department of Energy Resources, in consultation with the Department of Agricultural Resources, may add technologies or technology categories.

Solar Neighborhood Net Metering Facility means a Class I, II, or III Solar Net Metering Facility that:

- (a) is owned by, or serves the energy needs of, a group of ten or more residential Customers that reside in a single Neighborhood and are served by a single Distribution Company;
- (b) may also be owned by, or serve the energy needs of, other Customers who reside in the same Neighborhood and are served by the same Distribution Company as the residential Customers that own or are served by the facility; and
- (c) is located within the same Neighborhood as the Customers that own or are served by the facility.

<u>Solar Net Metering Facility</u> means a facility for the production of electrical energy that uses sunlight to generate electricity and is interconnected to a Distribution Company.

<u>Wind Net Metering Facility</u> means a facility for the production of electrical energy that uses wind to generate electricity and is interconnected to a Distribution Company.

# 18.03: Net Metering Services

(1) Each Distribution Company shall provide services to Customers and Host Customers necessary to permit Net Metering, including those related to interconnection, metering, and calculation, and billing of Net Metering ereditsCredits, as provided by 220 CMR 18.04 and -as specified in the a Distribution Company's Net Metering tariffs pursuant to 220 CMR 18.09(2) and 220 CMR 18.09(3).

- (2) Each Distribution Company shall be prohibited from imposing special fees on a Host Customer with a Class I Net Metering Facility, such as backup charges and demand charges, or additional controls or liability insurance, with the exception of a minimum reliability contribution, if approved by the Department, provided that the facility meets the other requirements of the interconnection tariff, and all relevant safety and power quality standards.
- (3) Each Distribution Company shall calculate a Net Metering <u>credit Credit</u> as set forth in 220 CMR 18.04, and not bill a Host Customer for kilowatt-hour usage, for any Billing Period in which the kilowatt-hours generated by a Class I, II, or III Net Metering Facility exceed the kilowatt-hour usage of the Host Customer.
- (4) Each Distribution Company shall bill a Host Customer for excess consumption for any Billing Period in which the kilowatt-hours consumed by a Host Customer exceed the kilowatt-hours generated by a Class I, II or III Net Metering Facility.

## 18.04: Calculation of Net Metering Credits

(1) For a Class I Wind Net Metering Facility, Class I Solar Net Metering Facility, Class I Agricultural Net Metering Facility, Class I Anaerobic Digestion Net Metering Facility, Class II Net Metering Facility, and or Net Metering Facility of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity, except those Solar Net Metering Facilities governed by 220 CMR 18.04(3) and (4), each Distribution Company shall calculate for each Billing Period a Net Metering eredit Credit equal to the product of the:

the excess kilowatt-hours, by time-of-use, if applicable; and

- (a) sum of multiplied by the sum of the following Distribution Company charges applicable to the rate class under which the Host Customer takes service:
  - 1. the default service kilowatt-hour charge (in the ISO-NE load zone where the Host Customer is located);
  - 2. the distribution kilowatt-hour charge;
  - 3. the transmission kilowatt-hour charge; and
  - 4. the transition kilowatt-hour charge.;
- (b) Except that a private Class I Solar Net Metering Facility or Class II Solar Net Metering Facility interconnected to a Distribution Company before the Notification Date shall receive Market Net Metering Credits after 25 years from the date on which the Solar Net Metering Facility was authorized to interconnect to the distribution system, as provided in 220 CMR 18.04(3).
- (2) For a Class I Net Metering Facility other than a Class I Wind Net Metering Facility, Class I Agricultural Net Metering Facility, Class I Anaerobic Digestion Net Metering Facility, or a Class I Solar Net Metering Facility, each Distribution Company shall calculate a Net Metering eCredit for each Billing Period as the product of the:
  - (a) excess kilowatt-hours, by time-of-use, if applicable; and
  - (b) average monthly clearing price at the ISO-NE.

- (3) For a Class I Solar Net Metering Facility, Class II Solar Net Metering Facility or Class III Solar Net Metering Facility interconnected to a Distribution Company after the Notification Date, except for a Solar Net Metering Facility of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity, each Distribution Company shall calculate for each Billing Period a Market Net Metering Credit equal to:
  - (a) 60% of the excess kilowatt-hours, by time-of-use, if applicable, multiplied by the sum of the Distribution Company's:
    - 1. default service kilowatt-hour charge in the ISO-NE load zone where the Host Customer is located;
    - 2. distribution kilowatt-hour charge;
    - 3. transmission kilowatt-hour charge; and
    - 4. transition kilowatt-hour charge, except:
  - (b) A Class I Solar Net Metering Facility that has a nameplate rating equal to or less than ten kilowatts on a single-phase circuit or 25 kilowatts on a three-phase circuit shall receive a Net Metering Credit equal to 100% of the excess kilowatt-hours, by time-of-use, if applicable, multiplied by the sum of the Distribution Company's:
    - 1. default service kilowatt-hour charge in the ISO-NE load zone where the Host Customer is located;
    - 2. distribution kilowatt-hour charge;
    - 3. transmission kilowatt-hour charge; and
    - 4. transition kilowatt-hour charge.
- (4) For a Class I Solar Net Metering Facility, Class II Solar Net Metering Facility, and Class III Solar Net Metering Facility of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity interconnected to a Distribution Company after the Notification Date, each Distribution Company shall calculate for each Billing Period a Market Net Metering Credit equal to:
  - (a) 100% of the excess kilowatt-hours, by time-of-use, if applicable, multiplied by the sum of the Distribution Company's:
    - 1. default service kilowatt-hour charge in the ISO-NE load zone where the Host Customer is located;
    - 2. distribution kilowatt-hour charge;
    - 3. transmission kilowatt-hour charge; and
    - 4. transition kilowatt-hour charge, provided that Credits shall only be allocated to an account of a municipality or government entity.

- -(35) For a Neighborhood Net Metering Facility or a Class III Net Metering Facility other than a Net Metering Facility of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity, and those Solar Net Metering Facilities governed by 220 CMR 18.04(6), each Distribution Company shall calculate for each Billing Period a Net Metering eredit Credit for each Billing Period as the product of theequal to:
  - (a) 100% of the excess kilowatt-hours, by time-of-use, if applicable, ; and (b) sum of multiplied by the sum of the following Distribution Company charges applicable to the rate class under which the Host Customer takes service:
    - 1. the default service kilowatt-hour charge in the ISO-NE load zone where the Host Customer is located;
    - 2. the transmission kilowatt-hour charge; and
    - 3. the transition kilowatt-hour charge;
  - (b) Except that a private Solar Neighborhood Net Metering Facility or a Class III Solar Net Metering Facility, other than a Solar Net Metering Facility of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity, interconnected to a Distribution Company before the Notification Date shall receive Market Net Metering Credits after 25 years from the date on which the Solar Net Metering Facility was authorized to interconnect to the distribution system, as described in 220 CMR 18.04(3).
- (6) For a Solar Neighborhood Net Metering Facility or a Class III Solar Net Metering Facility other than a Solar Net Metering Facility of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity, interconnected to a Distribution Company after the Notification Date, each Distribution Company shall calculate for each Billing Period a Market Net Metering Credit equal to:
  - (a) 60% of the excess kilowatt-hours, by time-of-use, if applicable, multiplied by the sum of the Distribution Company's:
    - 1. default service kilowatt-hour charge in the ISO-NE load zone where the Host Customer is located;
    - 2. distribution kilowatt-hour charge;
    - 3. transmission kilowatt-hour charge; and
    - 4. transition kilowatt-hour charge.
- (67) The calculation of Net Metering <u>credits\_Credits</u> under 220 CMR 18.04 shall not include the demand side management and renewable energy kilowatt-hour charges set forth in M.G.L. c. 25, §§ 19 through 20.
- (58) For any Billing Period for which a Distribution Company calculates a Net Metering eCredit for a Host Customer, the Distribution Company shall apply the Net Metering eCredit to the Host Customer's account for the subsequent Billing Period, unless the Host Customer provides otherwise pursuant to 220 CMR 18.05. The Distribution Company shall carry forward, from Billing Period to Billing Period, any remaining Net Metering Ceredit balance.

## 18.05: Allocation of Net Metering Credits

- (1) For a Class I, II or III Net Metering Facility, each Distribution Company shall allocate Net Metering <a href="mailto:credits">credits</a>Credits</a>, as designated in writing by the Host Customer, to other Customers who are in the Distribution Company's service territory and are located in the same ISO-NE load zone. The manner and form of credit designation shall be as specified in the Distribution Company's Net Metering Tariff pursuant to 220 CMR 18.09(2). Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Host Customer is a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity, including a Governmental Cooperative, it may direct its Distribution Company to allocate Net Metering <a href="mailto:credits">credits</a> only to other Customers that are Municipalities or Other Governmental Entities.
- (2) For a Neighborhood Net Metering Facility, the Distribution Company may only allocate Net Metering <u>eredits Credits</u> to residential or other Customers who reside in the same Neighborhood in which the Neighborhood Net Metering Facility is located and have an ownership interest in, or are served by, the Neighborhood Net Metering Facility.
- (3) The Distribution Company shall carry forward, from Billing Period to Billing Period, any remaining Net Metering eredit Credit balance.
- (4) For a Class III Net Metering Facility, a Distribution Company may elect to pay to the Host Customer Net Metering <u>credits Credits</u> rather than allocating such credits pursuant to 220 CMR 18.05(1).

### 18.06: Eligibility for Net Metering

- (1) Distribution Companies shall not provide Net Metering services to a Host Customer who is an electric company, generation company, aggregator, supplier, energy marketer, or energy broker, as those terms are used in M.G.L. c. 164, §§ 1 and 1F and 220 CMR 11.00: Rules Governing the Restructuring of the Electric Industry.
- (2) A Governmental Cooperative shall not be considered an electric company, generation company, aggregator, supplier, energy marketer or energy broker, as those terms are used in M.G.L. c. 164, §§ 1 and 1F and 220 CMR 11.00: *Rules Governing the Restructuring of the Electric Industry*.

## 18.07: Net Metering Capacity

- (1) Each Distribution Company shall make Net Metering services available to Host Customers such that the aggregate capacity of:
  - (a) Net Metering Facilities that are not Net Metering Facilities of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity does not exceed 477% of the Distribution Company's highest historical peak load; and
  - (b) Net Metering Facilities of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity does not exceed 588% of the Distribution Company's highest historical peak load.
- (2) The maximum amount of generating capacity eligible for Net Metering by a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity shall be ten megawatts, as determined by the sum of the nameplate ratings of Class II and III Net Metering Facilities for which the Municipality or Other Governmental Entity is the Host Customer; except as provided in 220 CMR 18.07(6).
- (3) Each Distribution Company shall identify on an annual basis its highest historical peak load and post that data on its website by February 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year.
- (4) For the purpose of calculating the aggregate capacity of Class I, II, and III Net Metering Facilities, the capacity of a:
  - (a) Solar Net Metering Facility shall be 80% of the facility's direct current rating at standard test conditions; and
  - (b) Wind Net Metering Facility, and all other non-solar net metering facilities, shall be the nameplate rating.
- (5) A Class I Net Metering Facility shall be exempt from the calculation of the aggregate capacity of Net Metering facilities that are not Net Metering facilities of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity if:
  - (a) it is a Renewable Energy generating facility; and
  - (b) its nameplate rating is equal to or less than
    - 1. ten kilowatts on a single-phase circuit; or
    - 2. 25 kilowatts on a three-phase circuit.
- (6) A Municipality or Other Governmental Entity that is a member of a Governmental Cooperative may transfer any or all of the net metering generating capacity associated with one or more Class II or III Net Metering Facilities to said Governmental Cooperative by providing written assent to the Governmental Cooperative and obtaining approval from the Department.

- (7) A Governmental Cooperative may serve as a Host Customer for a Net Metering Facility of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity for all capacity allocated pursuant to 220 CMR 18.07(6) and its own capacity as an Other Governmental Entity, provided that the net-Net metering Metering credits Credits for which such Governmental Cooperative serves as Host Customer shall only be allocated to that same Governmental Cooperative or its members.
- (8) Notwithstanding the capacity limits set forth herein 220 CMR 18.07, a Class I Net Metering Facility shall be eligible for Net Metering if it qualifies under the Department of Energy Resources' regulations as a Class I renewable energy generating source under 225 CMR 14:00: *Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Class I* and M.G.L. c. 25A, § 11F and its nameplate capacity is either:
  - (a) equal to or less than ten kilowatts on a single-phase circuit; or
  - (b) equal to or less than 25 kilowatts on a three-phase circuit.

## 18.08: Net Metering Reports

- (1) Each Distribution Company shall track at least the following:
  - (a) the size, generation type, Net Metering class, fuel type, and the Municipality within which each Net Metering facility receives Net Metering services;
  - (b) the size, generation type, fuel type, and the Municipality within which each Net Metering facility has requested interconnection with the Distribution Company; and
  - (c) the aggregate capacity of Net Metering facilities that have interconnected, and that have requested interconnection, to the Distribution Company.
- (2) Each Distribution Company shall file with the Department information regarding the provision of Net Metering services to its Customers, in a format and according to a schedule as determined by the Department.
- (3) Each Distribution Company shall post data to a publicly accessible website tracking the aggregate capacity of eligible Net Metering facilities that have connected, and that have requested interconnection, relative to the Net Metering capacity set forth in 220 CMR 18.07. The data shall be updated on a monthly basis.

#### 18.09: Miscellaneous

- (1) The provision of Net Metering services does not entitle Distribution Companies to ownership of, or title to, the renewable energy or environmental attributes, including renewable energy certificates, associated with any electricity produced by a Net Metering facility.
- (2) Each Distribution Company shall implement its responsibilities and obligations regarding the provision of Net Metering services to Customers and Host Customers pursuant to a Department-approved tariff.

- (3) Each Distribution Company shall implement its responsibilities and obligations regarding the provision of interconnection services to Customers and Host Customers pursuant to a Department-approved tariff.
- (4) Each Distribution Company shall be allowed to recover the aggregate of the distribution portion of any Class I, II, or III Net Metering eredits Credits and the Distribution Company delivery charges displaced by a Class I, II or III Net Metering Facility through a uniform per kilowatt-hour surcharge or surcharges billed to all of its Customers on an annual basis.
- (5) Nothing in 220 CMR 18.00 is intended in any way to limit eligibility for Net Metering services based upon a third-party ownership or financing agreement related to a Net Metering facility, where Net Metering services would otherwise be available.
- (6) Unless otherwise indicated, all capacity and energy measurements referenced in 220 CMR 18.00 refer to alternating current.
- (7) The Department may, where appropriate, grant an exception from any provision of 220 CMR 18.00.

18.10: Minimum Reliability Contribution

- (1) Distribution Companies may submit to the Department proposals for a monthly minimum reliability contribution to be included on electric bills for distribution utility accounts that receive Net Metering Credits.
- (2) The Department may only consider a proposal for a monthly minimum reliability contribution after the aggregate nameplate capacity of installed solar generating facilities in the Commonwealth is equal to or greater than 1,600 megawatts direct current and determines that such contributions meet the requirements set forth in M.G.L. c. 164, § 139(j).
- (3) The Department shall conduct a full adjudicatory proceeding when reviewing proposals for a monthly minimum reliability contribution, which shall include at least one public hearing and an opportunity for public comment.
- (4) The Department may exempt or modify any monthly minimum reliability contribution for low-income ratepayers. The Department may also exempt, for any period through the year 2020, any class or sub-class of Class I, Class II, or Class III Net Metering Facilities that were in service not later than December 31, 2016 from any minimum reliability contribution.
- (5) Minimum monthly reliability contributions shall take effect on such date designated by Department Order, provided that the date designated by the Department shall be not later than December 31, 2018.

#### REGULATORY AUTHORITY

220 CMR 18.00: M.G.L. c. 164, §§ 138 through 140; St. 2014, c. 251, §§ 5 and 6.